

Friday, July 1, 2005

## ***Marine Report Adopted at this Week's Board Meeting***

At this week's Board meeting, the NTSB recommended that small passenger vessel owners develop and implement go/no go policies, based on risk-management principles, regarding transiting bars and inlets. The Board also recommended that the Coast Guard require passengers of such vessels to wear lifejackets while transiting bars and inlets that have rough bar warnings in effect on the West Coast, where conditions are more severe than at East Coast inlets.

The recommendations are among 7 contained in a final report of the Board's investigation into the June 14, 2003 accident of the small passenger vessel Taki-Tooo, which was struck by a large wave and capsized just after departing from Tillamook Bay in Oregon to the Pacific Ocean. The accident claimed the lives of 11 of the 19 persons aboard the vessel.

Because of the sea conditions that day, the Coast Guard had posted small craft advisories and prohibited recreational boats and uninspected small passenger vessels from transiting the bar; the restrictions did not apply to inspected charter vessels like the Taki-Tooo. The Taki-Tooo was one of five vessels that approached the bar at about the same time. The Captain of the Taki-Tooo watched three vessels cross before attempting to take his vessel across the bar. None of his passengers was wearing a lifejacket. Although the Coast Guard has a regulation requiring vessel masters to compel passengers to wear lifejackets during hazardous conditions, the Board found that this regulation is rarely enforced, and the Board believes a revision of the regulations is required.

The Board noted that federal regulations require airlines to develop operating specifications that strictly delineate the conditions under which their aircraft will be allowed to operate. Similarly, vessel owners should establish go/no go criteria, rather than leaving it solely to the discretion of the master, who might have many outside factors to contend with in making such a decision. Pending implementation of such a Coast Guard regulation, the Board recommended that the National Marine Charter Association urge its members to implement such policies regarding transiting bars and inlets at Coast Guard surf station and regulated boating areas.



## ***Chairman Designate Addresses Symposium on Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving Enforcement***

On June 22, Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Connors addressed the University of North Florida's Institute of Police Technology and Management's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving Enforcement, conducted in Miami, Florida. Engleman Connors informed the audience consisting of over 300 DUI officers, drug recognition experts, breath testing professionals and prosecuting attorneys of the NTSB's role in the ongoing effort to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. She underscored the Board's attention to the issue of hard-core drunk driving, one of the items on the NTSB's list of "Most Wanted" safety recommendations. In particular, Engleman Connors highlighted the Board's advocacy for the passage of strong DUI legislation and its support of law enforcement efforts to implement such legislation. She also took the opportunity to point out the recent enactment of stronger DUI legislation in the states of Kansas, Maryland, New Mexico and Texas. On the topic of drug impaired driving, Ms. Engleman Connors stressed the need for the collection of more and improved data regarding drugged driving and traffic fatalities nationally. She closed her remarks by stating the Board's desire to continue progress on the issue and encouraged the audience to come forward with suggestions as to how the Board might be of further assistance.

## ***"SAFETY FIRST" FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRANTS***



Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker urges everyone to think safety first this holiday weekend. "Nothing ruins a holiday like a trip to the emergency room so buckle up, don't drink and drive, and wear your personal flotation device if you're boating."

Increasing seat belt usage, eliminating drinking and driving, and requiring personal flotation devices (PFDs) for children on boats are issues on the NTSB's list of Most Wanted safety improvements.

In 2004 more than 16,500 people were killed in alcohol-related highway accidents and the Independence Day holiday weekend is the most dangerous weekend of the year in terms of alcohol-related fatalities. So whether as a driver, passenger, rider, or pedestrian, or when boating, play it safe by eliminating those things that impair or distract you. Paying attention pays dividends.

As record numbers of Americans hit the roads to celebrate this Independence Day, keep yourself and your family safe - buckle up, don't drink and drive, and always wear a PFD when on the water.

## Rosenker Applauds States' Efforts on Recreational Boating OUI Enforcement

Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker, along with Special Assistant Tom Doyle and Bill Gossard (SRC-ADV), were invited to observe a Sobriety Checkpoint for recreational boating safety at Callville Bay, Lake Mead, Nevada, on Saturday, June 18. Some 30 officers from Nevada, Arizona, and the National Park Service were involved. 159 boats were stopped and there were 42 citations/violations, 3 of which were operating under the influence (OUI). Rosenker and Gossard also met with Arizona State Senator Linda Gray and Representative Jerry Weiers, as well as Representative Francis Allen of Nevada, to discuss recreational boating issues which are being considered in their states. Commitments were received that legislation would be introduced in Arizona to strengthen the state's alcohol and boating laws; mandatory education is also being considered. Rep. Allen committed to extending Nevada's children and PFD law to include children aged 12. Nevada's current law only covers children under age 12.

The Acting Chairman also discussed hard core drinking and driving issues with Arizona's Senator Linda Gray.



*Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker discusses the dangers of boating under the influence with a TV crew during his visit to Lake Mead, NV.*

## Engleman Connors Advocates for General Aviation Safety

As part of the continuing effort to advocate for safety in all modes of transportation, Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Connors attended the "Celebrate General Aviation" reception held June 23 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The audience, comprised of private citizens with an interest in general aviation, members of the general aviation industry and public officials, were on hand to celebrate the reopening of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to limited charter service. Engleman Connors used the opportunity to encourage continued attention to safety issues involved in the operation of general aviation aircraft.

## NTSB to Investigate Jackson Hole Aviation Accident

A National Transportation Safety Board investigator is at the scene of the June 27th crash of an aircraft in Jackson Hole, WY, that resulted in the death of John Walton. Investigator, Aaron Sauer of the NTSB's regional office in Denver, has performed an initial examination of the wreckage and had discussions with National Park Service officials and local FAA inspectors. The accident vehicle has been identified as a CGS Hawk Arrow two seat, an experimental, kit-built airplane. Consequently, the NTSB will conduct a typical field investigation of this accident. Mr. Sauer is the Investigator-in-Charge.

## NTSB Welcomes New Employees



Ms. Judy Santa Cruz, a senior at Texas A&M University (Kingsville Campus) this fall. An Engineering Technician (Temp Student) in the Office of Research and Engineering, Office of the Director.



Mr. Matt Hubbard, a senior at Virginia Tech next fall. A Temp Student in the Office of Research and Engineering, Materials Laboratory.



Mr. Isaac Lawson, a 2nd year Master's student at Union Theological Seminary this fall. An Office Automation Clerk (Temp Student) in the Office of Research and Engineering, Public Inquires Branch.



Ms. Emily Hubbard, 3rd year student at the University of Cincinnati this fall. A Temp Student in the Office of Research and Engineering, Materials Laboratory.

## Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

Over the last two weeks, more progress has been made by State legislatures in adopting the Safety Board's "Most Wanted" State recommendations. Governor Henry of Oklahoma signed the three-stage graduated driver license (GDL) system for young drivers with both nighttime driving and teen passenger restrictions. Governor Perry of Texas signed the high BAC and alcohol ignition interlock bill. He also signed a bill to increase the child safety seat requirement for age 4 to age 5 and to require a study of legislative options for improving child passenger safety. Governor Guinn of Nevada signed a bill that substantially improves their GDL system. The Illinois Legislature adopted a GDL cell phone use restriction and Governor Blagojevich is expected to sign the bill (now 9 States and DC). Chairman designate Connors was interviewed by the Voice of America on young driver issues and by AP on cell phone restrictions for teen drivers. Acting Chairman Rosenker was interviewed by Tavis Smiley (NPR and PRI) on cell phone restrictions for young drivers.